

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science

Minutes of Meeting 97-2

held

Friday, 21 March 1997, at 2:00 p.m. in H-769

Present: Dr. D.J. Taddeo (Chair); Dr. M.O. Ahmad; Dr. J.W. Atwood; Dr. C. Bédard; Dr. R. Bhat; Ms. C. Blaquièvre (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. J. Campanelli; Ms. M. Corsi (Graduate Rep.); Dr. P. Fazio; Dr. C. Giguère; Dr. K. Ha; Dr. A.M. Hanna; Ms. L. Harris (Library); Mr. D. Hinton (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. V.S. Hoa; Ms. S. Kiruluta (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. A. Krzyzak; Dr. C. Lam; Dr. L. Landsberger; Ms. A. Lappos (Undergrad. Rep.); Ms. L. MacDonald (Registrar's Office); Mr. S. Meliski (Undergrad. Rep.); Dr. E. Plotkin; Dr. D. Probst; Dr. A.S. Ramamurthy; Mr. N. Soliman-Saad (Graduate Rep.); Dr. T. Stathopoulos; Dr. C. Suen; Dr. J. Svoboda; Dr. L. Tao; Dr. G. Turski (Secretary); Dr. G. Vatistas; Dr. M. Zaheeruddin; Dr. R. Zmeureanu

Regrets: Dr. C. Trueman

Guests: Dr. N. Esmail, Dean Designate

1. Adoption of Agenda

Requests were made that Council also consider the following three items: 1) Bridge Building Competition; 2) Engineering Games; and 3) a new OIQ prize.

**Motion
97-2-1** The modified agenda was unanimously adopted (C. Suen, T. Stathopoulos)

2. Adoption of Minutes

Dr. Hoa noted that under "Chair's Remarks" the first sentence of the third paragraph should state 1 July 1997 as the starting date of the term of the incoming Dean, Dr. N. Esmail, and Ms. Corsi explained that she should be listed as a member (and not guest) of Council. Dr. Hoa also questioned the singling out in the first paragraph on p. 4 of the Industrial Engineering program as a possible candidate for attrition. As such, the relevant phrase should read: "disappearance of CE program could lead to the progressive attrition of other programs, such as Industrial Engineering or the Ph.D. in Computer Science." The Secretary noted

the corrections.

**Motion
97-2-2**

The Minutes of Meeting 97-1 (14 February 1997) were unanimously approved, as modified (C. Bédard, T. Stathopoulos)

3.

Chair's Remarks

The Chair introduced and welcomed Dr. N. Esmail, Dean Designate, and conveyed to him best wishes for his upcoming term as Dean. Dr. Esmail expressed his gratitude to all for making his current visit to the Faculty both pleasant and informative. He added that he is looking with great anticipation to July 1st, the first day in his new position.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Linda MacDonald who replaces Mr. T. Too as the Registrar's representative on Council.

The Faculty recently received the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board Visiting Team Report. All visited units are currently preparing responses to the individual program visitors' observations and the Faculty's overall response will be forwarded to the CEAB by the end of March 1997. Dr. Taddeo will personally appear in Ottawa before the CEAB for the accreditation hearing sometime during the first days of June 1997.

The recently formed Comité des universités sur les programmes (CUP), established to review the province's higher education offerings, has started its work. Engineering, Religious Studies and Theology, Communication Studies, and Fine Arts have been identified as the areas to be first examined. The inaugural meeting of the commission involving Quebec's Engineering Deans took place on 6 March 1997 and was primarily devoted to presentations of what each institution involved with engineering offers and how it sees itself vis à vis the rest of the university network. On behalf of Concordia, Dr. Taddeo conveyed the content of the Faculty's planning document submitted to SCAPP in December 1996. CUP is next scheduled to meet on 4 April 1997, at which time the methodology used to assess the standing of the various engineering institutions will be considered. The review process will continue for the next six to twelve months; reports on the ongoing of the commission will be issued on a quarterly basis, while the final recommendations for each individual institution offering programmes in a given sector will be sent both to that institution as well as made public throughout the rest of the university network.

The Chair announced the recent establishment of a Faculty Teaching Team. The mandate of this body is to look into issues of teaching, course evaluations, and the like. It comprises representatives from each academic unit, the Dean's Office, the ECA, and the Learning Development Office: alternates being listed in parentheses, these representatives are as follows:

Mechanical Engineering	E. Haseganu (V. Latinovic)
Electrical & Computer Engineering	V. Ramachandran (L. Landsberger)
Civil Engineering	A.M. Hanna (O. Pekau)
Centre for Building Studies	R. Guy (M. Zaheeruddin)
Computer Science	S. Klasa (P. Grogono)
Dean's Office	C. Jetté (Chair)
Associate Dean	T. Stathopoulos/G. Vatistas
Eng. & Comp. Sc. Students Association	C. Blacquière
Learning Development Office	R. Smith

The Teaching Team's first meeting will be convened in early April to examine the issue of a single University-wide course evaluation questionnaire, and to plan for the 1997 Professional Development Workshop for Teaching Fellows.

The Chair urged Council members to promote nominations for several University awards: The Concordia Medal; The O'Brien Medal; The Stanley G. French Medal; and The First Graduating Class Award. Nomination forms have been distributed to all unit heads and are also available from Dean of Students Offices at Loyola and SGW campuses. The deadline for nominations is 11 April 1997. Dr. Taddeo also reminded members about the need for Honorary Doctorate nominations and requested that any such nominations should be forwarded to him and the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

Following the introduction by the outgoing Engineering and Computer Science Students Association President, Ms. S. Kiruluta, Dr. Taddeo congratulated on behalf of Council Mr. D. Hinton on his election as the next head of the ECA.

4.

CBS/Civil Engineering Restructuring (ECFC Doc. 97-1-1 revised; Doc. 97-2-1)

Dr. Taddeo made brief reference to the various issues that arose in the course of planning to restructure the Centre for Building Studies and the Department of Civil Engineering into one unit. He was further pleased to report that after much discussion among all the affected parties, these issues were positively resolved in the spirit of compromise. This process, in turn, allowed for presenting to Council the following motion.

Motion 97-2-3

Whereas the Director of the Centre for Building Studies and Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering has submitted a plan (ECFC Doc. 97-1-1, revised) for the restructuring of the two units into one academic and administrative unit, to be called "School for Building"

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Science approves and recommends to the University Senate the restructuring of the Centre for Building Studies and the Department of Civil Engineering into one academic and administrative unit, to be called "School for Building", according

to the terms and conditions stated in ECFC Doc. 97-2-1 (T. Stathopoulos, C. Giguère)

In response to Dr. Probst's request for clarification regarding the statement in ECFC Doc. 97-2-1 that the monitoring of performance of the new unit will be assessed more formally at the end of each academic year, Dr. Stathopoulos explained that such assessment would take place according to an established and agreed upon schedule binding on all of the Faculty's units. Dr. Giguère further assured Dr. Probst that the status of the positions of Chair and Centre Director at the School will be comparable to existing such positions in the Faculty.

According to Dr. Bhat, since the new School for Building is expected to assume the mission of the Centre for Building Studies, that mission should be more fully articulated in the preambular part of ECFC Doc. 97-2-1. Dr. Lam pointed out that given that the document concerns strictly the terms and conditions of proposed new unit, this is not necessary.

Ms. Blacquière stated that the proposed restructuring of CBS and Civil Engineering has the strong support of students, and that whatever reservations initially existed among them have been adequately addressed in the process of formulating the final proposal.

Vote: Carried unanimously

5.

Academic Planning: Follow-up to the Discussion of the Document *Our Immediate Future* (ECFC Doc. 97-1-2)

As agreed at the Council meeting of 14 February 1997, the units responsible for the three programs listed in ECFC Doc. 97-1-2 as subject to review in the next two years for possible closure--B.Eng. (Industrial Engineering); M.Eng. (Aerospace); and Ph.D. (Computer Science)--provided the Office of the Dean with data supporting the maintenance of these programs. The following motion was thus proposed.

Motion
97-2-4

That in consideration of the information submitted to the Dean of the Faculty, the Council of the Faculty of Engineering and Computer Sciences strongly endorses the removal of: 1) the B.Eng. (Industrial Engineering) program; 2) the M.Eng. (Aerospace) program; and 3) the Ph.D. (Computer Science) program from List II contained in the Provost and Vice-Rector, Research's academic plan *Our Immediate Future* (ECFC Doc. 97-1-2). In addition, Council expresses its strong support for all three programs (D. Probst, S. Hoa)

Vote: Carried unanimously

6. Other

- **Bridge Building Competition**

Dr. Hanna informed about the Annual Bridge Building Competition. Twenty-six teams from Canada and the United States are competing in this year's event. Dr. Hanna presented Drs. Taddeo and Esmail with T-shirts commemorating it.

- **Engineering Games**

Ms. S. Kiruluta announced that Concordia has been selected for the first time to host next year the Engineering Games. The organizing committee will be soliciting individual departments' assistance in due course; currently, space is among the most pressing needs. Ms. Blacquière added that the games are a very important event--involving both a large budget and extensive participation--and that it will be important for Concordia, as the event's host, to ensure its successful organization.

- **OIQ Prize**

Dr. Bédard briefly informed about a new Entrepreneurship Encouragement Prize, launched jointly by the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec and the Banque National. The prize consists of \$5,000 in cash and will be awarded to a student (or a team of students) for the development of a business plan leading to a start-up "summer" company whose main activity is compatible with the student's program. The pertinent forms are available from Dr. Bédard and the application deadline is 11 April 1997.

9.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.